

REMARKS

Applicants thank the Examiner for the thorough consideration given the present application. Claims 1, 3-7, 9-14, 16, 17 and 19 are currently being prosecuted. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider his rejections in view of the amendments and remarks as set forth below.

Allowable Subject Matter

It is gratefully acknowledged that the Examiner considers the subject matter of claims 2 and 5 as being allowable if re-written in independent form and the subject matter of claims 12 and 15 as being allowable if being re-written in independent form and including amendments to overcome the 35 USC 112 rejections. While not conceding the appropriateness of the Examiner's rejections, claims 1 and 10 have been amended to include the limitations of claims 2 and 15, respectively. All of the claims are now in condition for allowance.

Rejection Under 35 USC 112

Claims 12-17 stand rejected under 35 USC 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. The Examiner notes a number of instances of improper antecedent basis in claims 12-14. By way of the present Amendment, Applicants have changed the dependency of these claims to dependent from claim 11 rather than claim 10. As a result, antecedent basis is present for all of these terms. Accordingly, this rejection is believed to be overcome.

Rejection Under 35 USC 102

Claims 1, 4, 7 and 9 stand rejected under 35 USC 102 as being anticipated by Seong (US Patent 5,606,296). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

By way of the present Amendment, Applicants have added the limitations of claim 2 to claim 1, thus overcoming this rejection.

Claims 10 and 13 stand rejected under 35 USC 102 as being anticipated by Jones et al. (US Patent 5,952,798). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

By way of the present Amendment, Applicants have added the limitations of claim 15 to claim 10, thus overcoming this rejection.

Rejection Under 35 USC 103

Claims 3 and 20 stand rejected under 35 USC 103 as being obvious over Seong. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

By way of the present Amendment, Applicants have canceled claim 20. Claim 3 depends from claim 1 which now includes the limitations of claim 5 and thus also overcomes this rejection.

Claim 6 stands rejected under 35 USC 103 as being obvious over Seong in view of Hoffman (US Patent 5,457,435). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 6 depends from claim 1 which now includes the limitations of claim 5 and accordingly this rejection is also believed to be overcome.

Claims 11, 14, 17, 19 and 21 stand rejected under 35 USC 103 as being obvious over Jones et al. in view of Seong. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

By way of the present Amendment, claim 21 has been canceled rendering this part of the rejection moot. The remaining claims depend from claim 10 which now includes the limitations of claim 15 and accordingly this rejection is likewise overcome.

Claim 16 stands rejected under 35 USC 103 as being obvious over Jones et al. in view of Seong and Hoffman. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 16 depends from claim 10 which includes the limitations previously found in claim 15. Accordingly, claim 16 is allowable based on its dependency from this allowable claim.

Conclusion

In view of the above remarks, it is believed that claims clearly distinguish over the patents relied on by the Examiner, either alone or in combination. In view of this, reconsideration of the rejections and allowance of all the claims are respectfully requested.

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Robert F. Gnuse Reg. No. 27,295 at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37.C.F.R. §§1.16 or 1.14; particularly, extension of time fees.

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Respectfully submitted,

By _____

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